

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Conference A, Memorial Town Hall
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Present: Selectmen Adams, Cloutier, Gaucher, Gagnon; Town Administrator Terenzini.

Absent: Selectmen Herl (with prior notification).

At 7:05 p.m. Chairman Adams called the workshop to order.

1. Cherry Street Fire Station: Terms and Conditions of Sale: Mr. Terenzini reviewed the West Main Street easements and standards while Helen Barnes and Karen Cullen spoke to elements we are trying to preserve at the station.

Freedom to deal with the hose tower (i.e., demolish it) was an issue for Ms. Gaucher. Mr. Cloutier was concerned over basic structural issues and not sure he wanted to impose any restrictions. Chairman Adams suggested an offering with restrictions but if there were no takers to then go for an unrestricted sale. Mr. Cloutier said he does not want to see it sold to then sit there without rehabilitation. Mr. Gagnon said until we have someone who knows what they might do we have no idea. Mr. Terenzini said we had required the West Main Street purchaser to prove he had his finances in place before we transferred the property. It was determined the staff will prepare the offering document to cover the discussion for review on March 13 or March 27. We will get written releases for entry from proposees.

Mr. Gagnon encouraged SelectBoard members to think about what their vision for the downtown will be. Ms. Cullen briefed the Board on the upcoming CDBG application process.

2. Overview of FY 2007 Budget Status; School District Request & Status: Mr. Terenzini reviewed his budget overview. Mr. Cloutier said he was disappointed in the numbers for the Council on Aging. There was a considerable discussion of what their "Build To" was (Council on Aging goals and budget allocations). Chairman Adams suggested an ad hoc committee to look at a long-range plan.

The sense of the meeting appeared to be to stick with the school approach that had a budget increase of 3.6% (base) and a total of \$5,717,088, which included the Support Our Students program, capital, and transitional funds.

Ms. Gaucher took exception to this approach for school monies, saying every time the Board gave in to their demands and we needed to stand firmer.

3. Parks & Recreation Overview: The Board reviewed the commission program package and a possible staff "hybrid" position to meet the needs of both this group and the Council on Aging. Chairman Adams repeated his belief that an ad hoc group should look at this issue.

4. Flag: A vote was slated for February 27 on the Town Administrator memo of January 27 once it was amended to allow for exceptions, in extraordinary circumstances, by the Chair.

At 8:55 p.m., motion by Mr. Cloutier to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator

_____ Chairman

_____ Vice Chairman

_____ Clerk

_____ Member

_____ Member